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ABSTRACT

Over 40 books, periodicals, directories, and organizations relevant to the educational uses of microcomputers are listed. The bibliography is divided into eight categories: (1) What are good sources of information about microcomputers for people with no background? (2) How can I decide which microcomputer to buy? (3) How can I locate available software? (4) Are there evaluations available for microcomputer software? (5) How can I find out what other school districts are doing with microcomputers? (6) How can I find journal and magazine articles that will keep me up-to-date? (7) What organizations are involved in the use of microcomputers? and (8) Where can more information about microcomputers be found? Most materials on the list were published after 1980. (KC)

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# MICROCOMPUTERS: SOME BASIC RESOURCES

Marilyn R. Laubacher

Apr 82

ERIC Clearinghouse on Information Resources
Syracuse, N.Y.

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## MICROCOMPUTERS: SOME BASIC RESOURCES

A resource guide published by the ERIC Clearinghouse on Information Resources containing selected sources for individuals who need to know where to look for more information about microcomputers and their educational uses.

### What are good sources of information about microcomputers for people with no background?

These publications contain information about the nature of microcomputers and basic issues involved in their use, hardware and accessories, instructional applications and software, current developments, and computer languages, and include resource lists for further study.

Frederick, F. J. Guide to microcomputers. Washington, DC: Association for Educational Communications and Technology; Syracuse, NY: ERIC Clearinghouse on Information Resources, 1980, 152pp. (ERIC Document Reproduction Service, PO Box 190, Arlington, VA 22210; ED 192 818, MF-$.91/PC-$11.90; also available from AECT Publication Sales, 1126 16th St., NW, Washington, DC 20036; $11.50/non-members, $9.50/members)

Gleason, G. T. Microcomputers in education: The state of the art. Educational Technology, March 1981, 21(3), 7-18. (Available UMI, 300 N. Zeeb Rd., Ann Arbor, MI 48106; EJ 244 284, $8.00)

Miller, I. Microcomputers and the media specialist: An annotated bibliography. Syracuse, NY: ERIC Clearinghouse on Information Resources, 1981, 70pp. (Information Resources Publications, 130 Huntington Hall, Syracuse University, Syracuse, NY 13210; IR-57, $4.25)

Moursund, D. Introduction to computers in education for elementary and middle school teachers. Eugene, OR: International Council for Computers in Education, 1981, 96pp. (ICCE, Dept. of Computer and Information Science, University of Oregon, 97403; $7.00)

Moursund, D. School administrator's introduction to instructional use of computers (3rd ed.). Eugene, OR: International Council for Computers in Education, 1982, 44pp. (ICCE, Dept. of Computer and Information Science, University of Oregon, 97403; $2.50)

Taylor, R. P. (Ed.) The computer in the school: Tutor, tool, tutee. New York: Teachers College Press, 1980, 280pp. (Teachers College Press, 81 Adams Dr., Totowa, NJ 07512; $14.95 plus $1.00 postage and handling)

### How can I decide which microcomputer to buy?

Once you have determined how a microcomputer can be used in meeting your educational program objectives, you will need information about the types of equipment that are available to fit your needs. These are several of the many available sources:

Apple II blue book. Chicago: WIDL Video, 1981, 365pp. (WIDL Video/Chicago, 5245 W. Diversey Ave., Chicago, IL 60639; $19.95)

MicroSIFT News, October 1981, 2(1), 2-3. (Northwest Regional Educational Lab., 300 SW 6th Ave., Portland, OR 94204) A bibliography of 28 items about hardware and selection.

Personal computers: Products for every need. Personal Computing, May 1981, 5(5), 45-55; 74. (Hayden Publishing, 50 Essex St., Rochelle Park, NJ 07662)

Popular Computing, BYTE Publications, Inc., 70 Main St., Peterborough, NH 03458; 12/year; $15.00. Frequently publishes articles on microcomputer features, accessories, uses, availability, price, and available languages.

Today's personal computers: Products for every need--Part II. Personal Computing, June 1981, 5(6), 9-10; 13-15; 73-75. (Hayden Publishing, 50 Essex St., Rochelle Park, NJ 07662)

Webster, T. Microcomputer buyer's guide. Rochelle Park, NJ: Hayden Book Co., 1981, 326pp. (Hayden Publishing, 50 Essex St., Rochelle Park, NJ 07662; $25.00)

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ERIC Clearinghouse on Information Resources, Syracuse University, Syracuse, NY 13210

## How can I locate available software?

An important consideration in the selection of a microcomputer for instructional purposes is the type of computer programs, or software, available for use with each system. Help in locating catalogs and vendors is found in listings below:

Classroom Computer News, July-August 1981, 1(6), 24-25. (Box 266, Cambridge, MA 02138) Lists 16 software directories that catalog products from more than one vendor; 28-32. Gives names, addresses, and telephone numbers, and describes products of 86 software vendors.

School CourseWare Journal, 4919 N. Millbrook, #222, Fresno, CA 93726; 5/year; $75.00. Publishes documented educational programs for the Apple II, PET, and TRS-80 microcomputers which may be used by pre-college students. Programs are supplied on cassette tape.

MicroSIFT News, October 1981, 2(1), 18. (Northwest Regional Educational Lab., 300 SW 6th Ave., Portland, OR 94204) Lists 11 microcomputer software catalogs.

SOFTSWAP Program, San Mateo County Office of Education, 333 Main Street, Redwood City, CA 94063. A project offering more than 200 public-domain instructional programs (for the TRS-80, PET, Apple, and Compucolor microcomputers) for purchase or exchange. For information about these evaluated programs, contact Ann Lathrop, Library Coordinator, and include $1.00 for ordering/exchange information.

Software Review, Microform Review, 520 Riverside Avenue, Westport, CT 06880; 2/year; $38.00. Addresses problems of software procurement and alerts educational and library computer users to the availability of potentially useful prewritten programs.

## Are there evaluations available for microcomputer software?

Three organizations are involved in the evaluation of microcomputer software:

Educational Products Information Exchange (EPIE), Box 620, Stony Brook, NY 11790; Kenneth Komoski, Executive Director

Purpose: EPIE is a non-profit consumer-supported agency that gathers and disseminates descriptive and analytical information, along with empirical information on performance and effects on learners, about instructional materials, equipment, and systems.

Publications: Microcomputer Courseware/Microprocessor Games. EPIE Materials Report 98/99m, 1981, 54pp., $25.00.

MicroSIFT, Northwest Regional Educational Laboratory, Computer Technology Program, 300 S.W. Sixth Avenue, Portland, OR 94204; Judith Edwards-Allen, Director

Purpose: MicroSIFT is a National Institute of Education-sponsored clearinghouse for microcomputer instructional software, K-12. It was established to design effective procedures for collection, evaluation, and dissemination of materials and information, and to incorporate a flexible user support and technical assistance component.

Publications: Evaluator's Guide for Microcomputer-Based Instructional Packages, 1981, 61pp. (ERIC Document Reproduction Service, PO Box 190, Arlington, VA 22210; ED 206 330, MF-$.91/PC-$5.30)
MicroSIFT News, Volume 1, Number 1, October 1980; Volume 2, Number 1, October 1981

Foundation for the Advancement of Computer-aided Education, Educational Program Evaluation Centre (EPEC), 20863 Stevens Creek Blvd., Bldg. B-2, Suite A-1, Cupertino, CA 94015; G. Gregory Smith, Executive Director

Purpose: The Foundation seeks to foster excellence in computer-assisted education and to recognize programs that demonstrate excellence, innovation, and effectiveness in learning environments. EPEC reviews commercially available educational courseware for all major microcomputer systems, regarding uses, content, and educational validity. Reviews are written by recognized computing education authorities with direct experience in the content areas of the program.

Publication: Journal of Courseware Review, P.O. Box 28426, San Jose, CA; $6.95/issue

Guidelines for doing your own program evaluation and an article describing one library's procedures in determining how to buy software are listed below:

Douglas, S., & Neights, G. Instructional software selection: A guide to instructional microcomputer software. Microcomputers in education series. Harrisburg, PA: State Dept. of Education, 33pp. (ERIC Document Reproduction Service, PO Box 190, Arlington, VA 22210; ED 205 201, MF-$.91/PC-$3.65)

Forman, D., et al. Reference manual for the instructional use of microcomputers. Volume I (Release II). Victoria, British Columbia: JEM Research, 1981, 873pp. (ERIC Document Reproduction Service, PO Box 190, Arlington, VA 22210; ED 208 849, MF-$1.86/PC-$58.10; also available from JEM Research, Discovery Park, PO Box 1700, Victoria, B.C. V8W 2Y2; $75.00)

Glotfelty, R. Stalking microcomputer software. School Library Journal, March 1982, 28(7), 91-94. (R.R. Bowker, 1180 Avenue of the Americas, New York, NY 10036)

Heck, W. P., Johnson, J., & Kansky, R. J. Guidelines for evaluating computerized instructional materials. Reston, VA: National Council of Teachers of Mathematics, 1981, 30pp. (NCTM, 1906 Association Dr., Reston, VA 22091; $3.75)

**How can I find out what other school districts are doing with microcomputers?**

The information file and network and directory of applications listed are useful for locating program descriptions, as well as addresses and contact people.

Microcomputer directory: Application in educational settings. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University, Monroe C. Gutman Library, 1981, 60pp. (Monroe C. Gutman Library, Graduate School of Education, Appian Way, Cambridge, MA 02138) A directory describing projects utilizing microcomputers for instructional and administrative purposes at 276 sites in the U.S., primarily at the elementary secondary levels and ranging from individual classrooms to system or statewide efforts.

School Practices Information Network (SPIN) and File (SPIF), Education Service Group, Inc., 1200 Route 7, Latham, New York 12210. The SPIN/SPIF program is an attempt to provide both a centralized file for general sharing of validated and exemplary educational practice information, while at the same time providing network linkages between agencies housing unique collections of information in a variety of practical application areas.

**How can I find journal and magazine articles that will keep me up-to-date?**

New microcomputer journals are appearing with great frequency, and many of the companies that manufacture hardware have publications available for their customers. The listings below will assist you in locating articles on current microcomputing developments.

Classroom Computer News, Intentional Educations, 51 Spring St., Watertown, MA 02172; 6/year; $12.00. (Subscriptions from Box 266, Cambridge, MA 02138)

The Computing Teacher, Department of Computer and Information Science, University of Oregon, Eugene, OR 97403; 9/year; $14.50.

Educational Technology, Educational Technology Publications, Inc., 140 Sylvan Avenue, Englewood Cliffs, NJ 07632; 12/year; $49.00.

LaShier, W. S., Jr. A scan of microcomputer journals. Science Teacher, November 1981, 48(8), 43-47. (Available UMI, 300 N. Zeeb Rd., Ann Arbor, MI 48106; EJ 254 343, $8.00)

Michelsen, J. (Ed.) A survey of selected computer-related periodicals. Lansing, MI: Michigan State Dept. of Education, Bureau of Library Services, 1981, 9pp. (ERIC Document Reproduction Service, PO Box 190, Arlington, VA 22210; ED 208 946, MF-$.91/PC-$2.00)

Microcomputer Index, Microcomputer Information Services, 2646 El Camino Real, #247, Santa Clara, CA 95051; 4/year; $22.00. Also available online through DIALOG Information Services, 3460 Hillview Avenue, Palo Alto, CA 94304 as File 233.

Microcomputers in Education, QUEUE, 5 Chapel Hill Drive, Fairfield, CT 06432; 12/year; $15.00. (Newsletter)

**What organizations are involved in the use of microcomputers?**

The following addresses can be used to write for information about the organizations' activities, publications, workshops, and/or conferences.

Association for Educational
Communications & Technology (AECT)
Task Force on Microcomputers
1126 Sixteenth Street, NW
Washington, DC 20036
202-466-4780

Association for Educational Data Systems (AEDS)
1201 Sixteenth Street, NW
Washington, DC 20036
202-822-7845

Association for the Development of
Computer-Based Instruction
Computer Center
West Washington University
Bellingham, WA 98225
206-676-2860

CONDUIT
CCN Department
PO Box 388
Iowa City, IA 52244
319-353-5789

International Council for
Computers in Education (ICEE)
Department of Computer and Informational Science
University of Oregon
Eugene, OR 97403

Minnesota Educational Computing Consortium
2520 Broadway Drive
St. Paul, MN 55113
612-376-1118

The fourth National Educational Computing Conference will be held June 28-30, 1982, in Kansas City, Missouri. The contact person for this meeting is E. Michael Stamen, University of Missouri-Columbia, Computer Services, 305 Jesse Hall, Columbia, Missouri 65211. Proceedings of the first three conferences are listed below:

Harris, D. (Ed.) Proceedings of NECC 1979 National Educational Computing Conference (1st, Iowa City, IA, June 25-27, 1979), 393pp. (EDRS, PO Box 190, Arlington, VA 22210; ED 178 068, MF-$.91; 111 Weeg Computing Center, University of Iowa, Iowa City, IA 52242; $10.00)

Harris, D., & Collison, B. (Eds.) Proceedings of NECC/2 National Educational Computing Conference 1980 (Norfolk, Virginia, June 23-25, 1980), 306pp. (EDRS, PO Box 190, Arlington, VA 22210; ED 194 060, MF-$.91; 111 Weeg Computing Center, University of Iowa, Iowa City, IA 52242; $10.00)

Harris, D., & Nelson-Heern, L. (Eds.) Proceedings of the NECC 1981. National Educational Computing Conference (3rd, North Texas State University, Denton, Texas, June 17-19, 1981), 361pp. (EDRS, PO Box 190, Arlington, VA 22210; ED 207 526, MF-$.91; Computer Science Department, University of Iowa, Iowa City, IA 52242; $10.00)

**Where can more information about microcomputers be found?**

The ERIC (Educational Resources Information Center) system sponsored by the National Institute of Education of the U.S. Department of Education has been selecting documents on computers since 1966 and indexing articles from key journals since 1969. The subject heading "Microcomputers" was added in March 1980. Abstracts of the documents can be found in:

Resources in Education, published monthly by the U.S. Government Printing Office and available in more than 3,500 libraries throughout the world.

Selected journal articles on the topic of computers have been indexed and annotated and are listed in:

Current Index to Journals in Education, found in many libraries or available from Oryx Press, 2214 N. Central Ave. at Encanto, Phoenix, AZ 85004.

Computer searching of ERIC is available in many academic and some public libraries. Specific questions can be addressed to the ERIC Clearinghouse on Information Resources.

The ERIC/IR Clearinghouse has a publications list of information analysis products about current issues and developments in the field and publishes ERIC/IR Update several times each year. Both items are available without charge.

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